

Application No.: 09/937,620  
Amendment After Final Dated 4 February 2005  
Reply to Office Action of 11 January 2005

*REMARKS*

Claims 9-11, 15 and 24-27 have been canceled without prejudice to pursuing in a continuation application. It is submitted that this amendment does not constitute new matter and its entry is requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-11, 15 and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Hellman et al. (WO 99/09058). Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejection of these claims, they have canceled them from the present application in order to advance the allowable subject matter to patent grant. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these canceled claims in a continuation application. In view of the cancellation of claims 9-11, 15 and 24-27, it is submitted that this rejection has been obviated. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

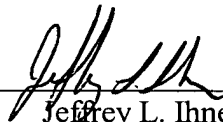
Applicants note that the Examiner indicated that claims 1, 2, 4 and 8 were allowable. Since claims 17 and 21-23 depend from these allowable claims, it is submitted that the allowable claims are 1, 2, 4, 8, 17 and 21-23.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims satisfy the requirements of the patent statutes and are patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration of the instant application and early notice of allowance are requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if it is deemed to expedite allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, p.c.

By



Jeffrey L. Ihnen

Registration No. 28,957

Attorney for Applicant

1425 K Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, D.C. 20005

phone: 202-783-6040

fax: 202-783-6031